

### **REMARKS**

The Applicant hereby recognizes the Examiner's acknowledgement of the applicant's claim of foreign priority based upon China Application No. 00129863.1. The Applicant submitted a certified copy of the Chinese application on January 10, 2005, as required by the Examiner, which is verified on the attached copy of the postcard submitted January 10, 2005. In this regard, it appears that such document has been misplaced at the Patent Office, and a further certified copy is being obtained for re-submission.

### ***ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER***

The Applicant hereby gratefully acknowledges that claims 1-24 and 45-52 have been allowed by the Examiner. Further, the Examiner indicated that Claims 26-28 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 26-28 have been amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and are therefore now believed to be in *prima facie* condition for allowance.

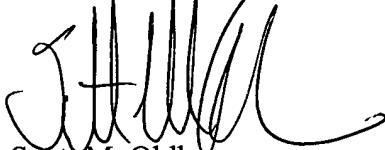
### ***35 USC § 102 CLAIM REJECTIONS***

Claim 25 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by El Hage. With this amendment Applicant has cancelled claim 25.

In the foregoing amendments, claim 25 has now been cancelled, with only allowable claims 1-24, 26 – 28 and 45-52 remaining. Based upon the foregoing, it is believed that the present invention as now claimed is in condition for allowance, and favorable action hereon is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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